

# VAN NESS

## IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



# SFCTA CAC

September 22, 2021





# Project Background



Van Ness Avenue is the backbone of civic life in San Francisco and one of the most important thoroughfares connecting the region. This project will make the street accessible and enjoyable for everyone through:

- The city's first Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, which aims to improve travel times by 32% and reliability by up to 50%.
- Improve pedestrian safety to support Vision Zero goals.
- Utility maintenance including repaving the street and replacing water and sewer systems to ensure reliability.
- Public improvements like more efficient street lighting, new sidewalk lighting and landscaping.

# Project Update

## Recent milestones:

- Utilities phase is complete
- Red transit lanes have been finished
- S. Van Ness & Mission intersection closure successful
- Traffic signals completed (except for one pending)

## Current work:

- Bulbouts, sidewalk repair, brick pavers
- Irrigation and tree planting
- Muni overhead lines

# Project Forecast

- Construction forecasted to be finished by end of 2021
- BRT testing and beginning of revenue service to begin in first half of 2022
- Planning underway for ribbon-cutting



# Civil Grand Jury

- Civil Grand Jury report, "Van Ness Avenue: What Lies Beneath," issued June 2021
- SFMTA's responses to the Findings and Recommendations were submitted along with responses from SFPUC and Office of the Mayor in a jointly signed letter
- Hearing scheduled at the Government Audit and Oversight Committee on September 30, 2021



# Findings and Recommendations

14 findings and 11 recommendations, complete text available [here](#)

- High-level findings
  - There were many avoidable delays during utilities phase
  - Contractor selection criteria overemphasized cost
  - Insufficient pre-utilities preparation
  - Strained relationship between city and contractor due to high work costs
- High-level recommendations
  - New risk management and communication procedures
  - More complete potholing
  - Industry-standard best practices for project management and contracting for Construction Management/General Contracting (CM/GC) model
  - Additional technical review for CM/GC contracts

# Actions Taken

SFMTA continuously reviews and improves project delivery processes.

- New risk management and communication procedures
  - Every project has a written risk identification and mitigation process
- More complete potholing
  - Doing more detailed underground assessments on all capital projects
- Industry-standard best practices for project management and contracting for Construction Management/General Contracting (CM/GC) model
  - Agency will review and adopt applicable practices
- Additional technical review for CM/GC contracts
  - Agency will implement new processes to ensure technical review

Actions have led to successful implementation and delivery

- Geary Rapid Project
- 16th Street Transit Priority Project
- Vision Zero Quick Build Program
- Taraval Segment A

# Moving Forward

- SFMTA acknowledges concerns about project delay and increased costs and is working with contractor to improve construction efficiency
- Lessons learned during first phase of project (underground utility work) have been implemented. The current phase (BRT construction), is on time and on budget due to improved collaboration

